

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 5 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5 have each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 12, 2004.

Specification:

The specification stands objected due to a minor informality as indicated in item 1 of the Action. However, the specification has been amended to correct this informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 2-4 stand objected to for the specific reasons set forth in item 2 of the Action. However, each of claims 2-4 has been amended to overcome this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejection:

claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Endo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,182).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention, a recording medium is formed with a plurality of folders for managing a plurality of image files. The recording medium is attached to an attacher. A first pointer points any one of the plurality of folders formed in the recording medium as a record destination folder, and a second pointer points any one of the plurality of folders formed in the recording medium as a reproducing destination folder.

A subject is imaged by an imaging device. When a recording instruction is issued, a writer writes a new image file including image data of a subject image which is imaged by the imaging device to the record destination folder. Furthermore, a first changer changes a point destination of the second pointer to a point destination of the first pointer in response to the recording instruction. When a reproducing instruction is issued, an image file stored in the reproducing destination folder is reproduced by a reproducer.

A point destination of the second pointer is changed to a point destination of the first pointer in response to the recording instruction. This signifies that the reproducing destination folder is coincident with the record destination folder when the recording instruction is issued. Accordingly, there is no need to manually select the reproducing destination folder when reproducing the latest image file immediately after a recording process having been completed, and therefore, operability is improved.

Contrary thereto, according to Endo et al., a still image file is recorded under a still image directory in response to an operation of a shutter button in a still image recording mode, a motion image file is recorded under a motion image directory in response to an operation of the shutter

button in a motion image reproducing mode. Furthermore, when a reproducing mode is selected, a still image (or a motion image) is reproduced from a still image file (or a motion image file) which is specified depending upon an operation manner of a reproducing button.

However, Endo et al. fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention in which a point destination of the second pointer is changed to a point destination of the first pointer in response to the recording instruction. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not anticipated by Endo et al., and therefore, the present invention is patentable.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

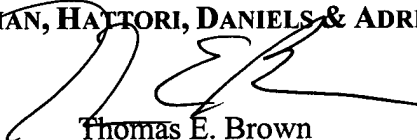
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 010721
Serial No. 09/871,248

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the firm name.

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